
Living Springs

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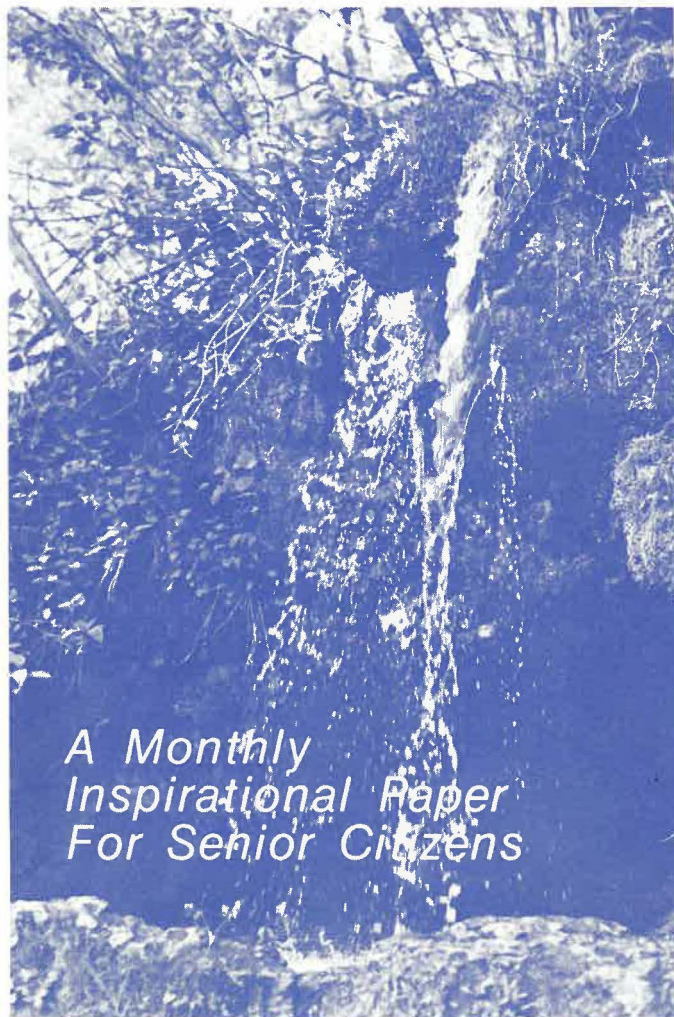
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*A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens*

JANUARY 1979



Believer's Crowns

by
Dr. Leman Strauss

In the New Testament five crowns are mentioned. They are the rewards our Lord will bring with Him when He appears to rapture the Church. Each believer will receive a just reward for service according to the motive and measure of our works.

1. A crown for Striving - I Corinthians 9:24-27

In the context of these verses Paul uses the figure of an athlete. Before the start of the contests each participant would strive for self-discipline, being temperate in all things. The care the athlete would give his body was of prime importance. The winner of the contest would receive "a corruptible (perishable) crown," a laurel wreath that would soon fade (vs. 25). But the crown the Lord will present to His own will never fade. Those who will receive this crown are the Christians who exercised themselves in caring for their bodies. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19,20). It is the vehicle through which God gets His work done on earth. Surrender your body at once to Him (Romans 12:1,2). Give it the needed rest and exercise and the proper food in right quantities. Don't lose this crown! It is given for *the control of the body*.

2. A Crown for Soul-Winning - I Thes. 2:19; Phil. 4:1

I prefer to identify this crown for faithfulness in sowing the seed of God's Word. It is a reward for seed-sowing (Psa. 126:6). Actually we are merely the witnesses for and of Christ. The Holy Spirit wins the soul of the sinner. Every Christian should seek to cultivate the habit and

heart of witnessing to the unsaved. When Jesus called men to follow Him, He said, "I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18,19). Will there be souls in heaven because we were faithful in witnessing to them? A faithful witness in our daily routine of living is required of us (Acts 1:8). Don't lose this Crown! It is given for our *concern for sinners*.

3. A Crown of Steadfastness - Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10

Here is a reward reserved for those Christians who remain steadfast and unmoveable to the end (I Cor. 15:58). It is not limited to martyrs who were killed for their testimony for Christ, but rather it is for all Christians who remain faithful in spite of the trials of life. A quitter like Demas will lose the crown of life (II Tim. 4:10). Don't lose this crown! It is given for *continuing in service*.

4. A Crown for Shepherding - I Peter 5:1-4

During the absence of the Chief Shepherd we Christians are given the privilege of being under-shepherds to care for the flock of God. New babes in Christ need to be fed and led (I Peter 1:23), but someone must feed and lead them. Every child of God should manifest a genuine and sincere interest in discipling new converts to Jesus Christ (John 21:15-17). It will be given to those Christians who *care for the sheep*.

5. A Crown for Second-Coming Lovers - II Tim. 4:6-8

This is "a crown of righteousness" which the Lord will give to all who lived daily in the anticipation and expectation of His coming again. The doctrine of our Lord's return is regarded highly in Scripture. His coming is called "the blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). It has a purifying effect upon all who look for and love Christ's appearing (Col. 3:1-5; I John 3:2,3).

Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Rev. 3:11).

REFLECTIONS of FAITH

Edited by Pat Farmwald

The Days of Our Years

Psalms 90

The days of our allotted time
Are but threescore years and ten.
They're very brief, like song or rhyme
And written with our Maker's pen.

Tho some may attain to fourscore years
Mid trouble and labor and sorrow,
Memories of the race, boos, cheers
Bring hopes for another tomorrow.

Another generation, not very far back,
Looks on with sympathy to say,
"His day is ending on life's racetrack;
So sad he'd no longer to stay."

Pray tell why lament when a life is spent,
Unless it was spent in vain.
Go finish that race of Him who meant
To be run in poverty, wealth or pain.

What then is this brief life all about?
Is death the end, the grave the goal?
If so, why weep, why shout?
Unless we possess a never dying soul!

So teach us, O Lord, to number our days
And unto wisdom our hearts apply,
Assured if we run His righteous ways
We'll never, no never, no never die.

by B.C. Jennings

The New Year

by
Mark J. Highman

The new year has begun and so have all the resolutions. All the problems, sorrows, good times, and excitement of the past year are only memories. Before us is a crisp, fresh new year. What can we as Christians do to make this new year a year glorifying to the Lord?

In Philippians 2:12-13 Paul penned the words, "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...." Read this yourself, and notice with me some very important implications.

The first implication we note is the word "work". Can Paul be telling us that we must work to be saved? No, Paul is writing to people who are already saved. Notice that he began, "Wherefore my beloved...."

Paul also must have had in mind Ephesians 2:8-9 that tells us that we are saved by grace through faith and not by works. In the literal Greek translation we see that Paul is saying, now that you are saved, begin building on that foundation, taking great pains to work thoroughly at your salvation to increase your spiritual living.

The Christian life is one that bears fruit. You can tell that a person is a Christian by his works, or the way he lives his life. James tells us in James 2:20 that faith without works is dead. The fruit of the Spirit is the true character of the Christian, not something gained overnight, but something that must be worked on. This is working out your own salvation.

The second implication to notice from Philippians 2:12-13 is that we should work with fear and trembling. This means that we should take great care and circumspection in our outworking. We have no need to be scared, but should take great pride in our spiritual lives so



that we may nurture them and pattern them after the life of Jesus Christ Himself. We should be very careful how we present our lives before the God of heaven, for He is perfect and holy. God and sin just do not mix.

The foundation is salvation, a free gift, a solid gift from the Father above. Let's build a beautiful edifice on top of this foundation! Here are some suggestions to make this new year one that glorifies God.

READ YOUR BIBLE THROUGH. Have you ever read your Bible through? The only way we can know how to live a true spiritual life is by reading what God says about living a spiritual life. You will never know if you don't read it. You can even get the Bible on cassette tapes now if you have trouble reading!

PRAY EVERY DAY. God tells us of the power in prayer. God communicates to us through His Word, and we communicate to God through prayer. This is our means of sharing and talking with God. God hasn't ignored you; are you going to ignore God?

WORK ON SPIRITUAL FRUIT. Read Galatians 5:22-23 which lists the fruit of the Spirit. You can and should begin today to develop these in your life. Pray that God will help you to do this, and read about the different fruit in the New Testament. Christ is the perfect example of each fruit!

Do you want to please God? If so, you can be living a Christian life! This is done by obeying God's Word: work out your own salvation with fear and trembling! May God bless you in this new year as you take on this endeavor!

Daily Walk Through God's Word

January	Morning Genesis	Evening Matthew
1	1,2	1
2	3,4	2
3	5,6	3
4	7,8	4
5	9,10	5
6	11,12	6
7	13,14	7
8	15,16	8
9	17,18	9
10	19,20	10
11	21,22	11
12	23,24	12
13	25,26	13
14	27,28	14
15	29,30	15
16	31,32	16
17	33,34,35	17
18	36,37	18
19	38,39,40	19
20	41,42	20
21	43,44	21
22	45,46	22
23	47,48	23
24	49,50	24
	Exodus	
25	1,2,3	25
26	4,5	26
27	6,7	27
28	8,9	28
		Mark
29	10,11,12	1
30	13,14	2
31	15,16	3

A glance at the Bible reading chart shows something new for the new year. Instead of having the Bible readings go along with the devotionals each week, we are organizing the readings in a way that will allow you to read through the Bible in one year. Keep track of yourself! At the end of the year we will be awarding certificates to everyone who makes it all the way through his Bible.

Nothing is more exciting than to see how the Lord uses dedicated believers in the ongoing work of Jesus Christ. There is one particular person who deserves to be brought to the forefront at this time for her dedication to our Lord both in her work and her testimony: Mrs. Dorothy Brandkamp. Mrs. Brandkamp was partly shocked at finding that LIVING SPRINGS had decided on her as our first interviewee for our Senior Servants column. In fact, I was deeply impressed with her humbleness in that her duty for the Lord was "quite a small thing."

Mrs. Brandkamp is in a ministry of unique importance. She sends church bulletins every other week to college students who are members of the NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH. Of course, this task alone is simple, but she goes an extra step which makes it priceless - she types each student a letter and encloses it in the envelope. Let me tell you, there is nothing that makes a college student's day more than a letter from a faithful friend such as Dorothy Brandkamp!

I asked her just why she wrote letters to the college students. She replied that it didn't seem to her of much value just to receive two bulletins every other week - it is cold and impersonal. She wants to bring the students up to date with the news of the church and how things are going. Mrs. Brandkamp did not mention it, but she also includes a challenge from scripture or some spiritual truth that had touched her in a recent sermon by the pastor of the church.

Mrs. Brandkamp also displays a real love for the college students of NORTHWEST BIBLE. True, it is demonstrated through the fact that



Servants

rk Highman

she takes time to send a letter along with the bulletins to each student, but more, when the students are home she comes up to them and likes to know how things are going for each one. She displays her interest and her concern which makes the students feel even more attached to her.

God says in I Corinthians 12:23 that "those members of the church body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness." Though the ministry that Mrs. Brandkamp is involved in seems small in the eyes of men, before God it is mighty and shall receive rich rewards. Just knowing that her letters are a big part of the college students' day is a rich reward here on earth, but what God has in store for Mrs. Brandkamp in heaven is beyond our human comprehension!

Mrs. Dorothy Brandkamp is only one example of the thousands of Senior Servants the Lord is using to edify the body of Christ. It's exciting to see how the Lord will use each of us when we are leaning totally in His everlasting arms. The question I extend to you today is, "Are you involved in some service for the Lord?" If so, why not write the LIVING SPRINGS staff and let us know - we are interested in YOU. Just send us your name, address, and a phone number where we can reach you, and just maybe you will be one of the next Senior Servants to share your ministry with all our readers. We know that our readers will receive a real blessing in reading how YOU are actively serving our Lord!

Note Worthy

Edited by Loanna Hamilton

*I need Thee every hour,
Most gracious Lord:
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.*

*I need Thee, O I need Thee,
Every hour I need Thee,
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

At the time Ann Hawks wrote this song, she had never lived through any real grief. She had a happy home and the security of those she loved around her.

It was not until many years later that she realized the comfort of her words. In a letter to a friend, she wrote: "I remember well that morning more than twenty years ago... I was so filled with a sense of nearness to the Master that, wondering how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain, these words, 'I need Thee every hour,' were flashed into my mind.... I caught my pencil and the words were soon committed to paper.... It was not until long years after when the shadow fell over my way - the shadow of a great loss - that I understood something of the comforting words that I had been permitted to give out to others in my hours of sweet security and peace."

Thot For The Month:

A truly wise man looks beyond earthly GOALS to heavenly GAINS. -Henry G. Bosch

Verse For The Month:

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. II Corinthians 5:17

Light for Living

by Dr. James T. Jeremiah

Agnes Good wrote, "Why allow yourself to age as long as your health permits you to do the things you like? I decided when I was growing up—and women were old at 40—that I'd be different. Now I say to you past 70, keep young inside and the outside will fall in line. Keep up with the latest news and latest changes. You cannot keep all wrinkles from forming in your face, but you can associate with younger people part of the time. Absorb their side of life. Welcome each birthday and be thankful that you are as well as you are. Don't count your aches and pains. Turn your worries over to God, for He is able to make all things right—there is no need for you to struggle with them. Look about you and count your blessings. They are greater than you may think."

Problems are not solved simply by ignoring them. Pain is not lessened by denying its reality or saying it does no longer exist, but for the child of God who suffers, there is the message from a loving heavenly Father Who says, "*My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*" Then with Paul you can say, "*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me,*" (II Corinthians 12:9).

No one can stop growing old in years. Birthdays come more rapidly, it seems, as the years go by. Old age is inevitable, but you can renew your youth. Consider God's formula: "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*" (Psalm 103:2-5).

Then there is the elderly gentleman who recently had surgery under Medicare. On awaking right after the operation, he noticed a sign propped against his bandages which read: "This is a Federal project showing your tax dollars at work." That discovery should have made him feel young in a hurry. There is nothing, however, to help the elderly, and the younger set, too, like the promises of God's Word.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and

they shall walk, and not faint," (Isaiah 40:31).

"Fear thou not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness," (Isaiah 41:10).

"Let me grow lovely growing old. So many fine things do: leaves, and ivory, and gold, and silks need not be new. And there is healing in old trees. Old streets a glamor hold. Why may not I, as well as these, grow lovely, growing old?"

Let's Chatter

About a Matter

Here it is a new year for you all! May it be a great and profitable new year! You know, while you are all freezing in the cold of January, I am still in the warmth of a fabulous fall. We have just organized our staff for the new year, and are heading into a very new and different approach to *LIVING SPRINGS*, as you will probably notice with this new issue. For this new month I would just like to list our new staff for this year so that you might keep them in mind in prayer as we work together as a unified unit for the Lord in this manner.

Our officers this year are as follows:

Mark J. Highman	Associate Editor
Bob King	Assistant Editor (puzzle)
Pat Farmwald	Assistant Editor (poetry)
Connie McLane	Secretary
Janet Ebel	Treasurer
Teresa Galbreath	Head Typist

Our staff this year is made up of the following

Becky Brown	Typist
Rich Connors	Puzzle
Becky Cotter	Typist
Janet Ebel	Writer
Patty Farmwald	Poetry
Cathi Finnemore	Writer
Teresa Galbreath	Typist
Loanna Hamilton	Writer
Dean Harkness	Writer
Mark Highman	Writer
Carol Hippard	Writer
Bob King	Puzzle
Kathy Kikbride	Poetry
Kathy Krewson	Artist
Becky Needles	Artist
Charlotte Olson	Bible Readings
Chloe Parker	Writer
Donna Partridge	Puzzle
Nathan Rehn	Photography
Kay Walker	Artist
Gary Welton	Writer

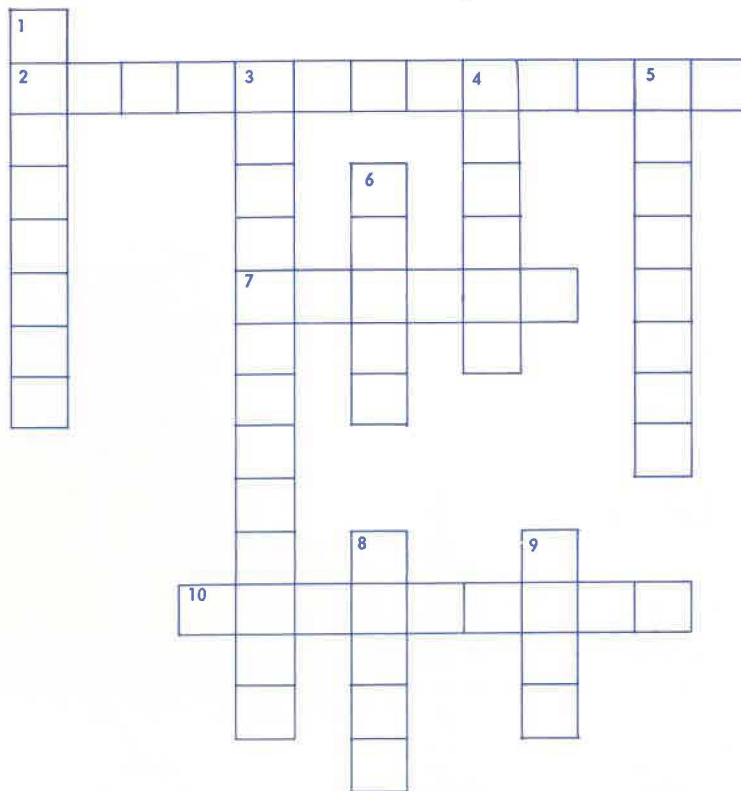
Quizzle by Bob King

ACROSS

2. Christians strive for an _____ crown. (I Cor. 9:25)
7. Christ's crown. (John 19:5)
10. "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of _____?" (I Thess. 2:19)

DOWN

1. "A _____ woman is a crown to her husband." (Prov. 12:4)
3. The crown given to those who "love his appearing." (II Tim. 4:8)
4. Casting crowns before the _____. (Rev. 4:10)
5. Striving _____ for the crown. (II Tim. 2:5)
6. The crown which fadeth not away. (I Pet. 5:4)
8. The _____ head is a crown of glory to the righteous. (Prov. 16:31)
9. A crown for those who endure temptation. (James 1:12)



Looking At God's Creation

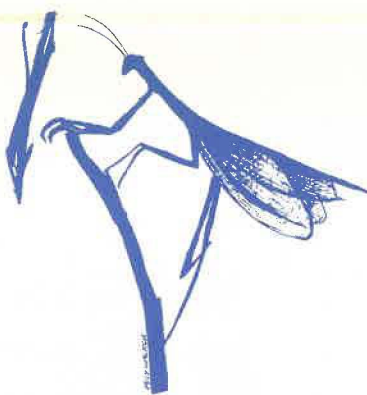
by
Cathi Finnemore

The earth abounds with many of God's wonderful creations. Some, like the praying mantis, are very unique. The praying mantis gains its name from the unusual position of its legs. Since the knees of a mantis are constantly bent, it often appears to be kneeling - as if in prayer.

As a member of the mantid family, the praying mantis closely resembles the common grasshopper. It is able to move quickly through the use of its long, thin body and short, broad wings. The mantis is able to seize its prey with the sharp hooks of its forelegs.

The mantis lives and reproduces in warm climates. After laying her eggs in great masses, the female mantis uses a sticky substance produced in its own body to glue them to trees, bushes, and shrubs. Only those eggs which survive the winter weather, preying animals, and other hazards, hatch in the early spring.

Though the mantis is only between two and



five inches long, it provides a valuable service to man by feeding on a variety of harmful insects. However, because of its small size and leaf-like coloring, the praying mantis often goes unnoticed.

All too often the mantis resembles the life of the Christian prayer warrior! Often the praying Christian, overshadowed by the talents of a dynamic brother, goes unrecognized by his fellow Christians. Yet, what an important position he holds! James 5:16

states: *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* Prayer is a vital element of the Christian life!

Through prayer we communicate to God. No problem is ever too small, or too great, to bring to Him. His word tells us: *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God"* (Phil. 4:6). He wants to hear every petition.

Do you bring your requests to God? Do you truly believe He hears every request? Do you believe He answers these requests? Matthew 21:22 reveals: *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."* God always answers the prayers of His children!

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But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

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ANSWERS

ACROSS

2. incorruptible
7. thorns
10. rejoicing

DOWN

1. virtuous
3. righteousness
4. throne
5. lawfully
6. glory
8. hoary
9. life